TWO BATTLE BLOCKBUSTERS IN ONE MAG!
GRAVEDIGGER PLUS DATELINE: FRONTLINE!

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NO. 22
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MEN OF WAR™

JOE KUBERT

DEATH IN THE HALL OF MIRRORS!

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YOU'VE GOT TO BUILD 'EM TO BELIEVE 'EM!

NEW

It digs! Claw blade scoops and carries – just like a real bulldozer.

It lifts! Rear controls raise and lower claw blade.

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Set 950

Set 955

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Set 956

Set 952

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HANDLER OF THE DEAD: A RATHER IGNOBLE POSITION FOR A MAN SOON TO BECOME LEGEND. BUT THEN, NO ONE EVER SAID THAT WAR IS LONG ON LOGIC. JUST ASK ULYSSES HAZARD, A MAN WHO HAD TO FIGHT NOT ONLY THE ENEMY--BUT HIS OWN COUNTRY--TO EARN THE...

CODE NAME: Gravdigger

MUCH OF WORLD WAR II WAS FOUGHT ON THE *BEACHES*...

BUT *THIS* BATTLE WAS NOT *IN* THE HISTORY BOOKS! FOR IT WAS FOUGHT ON THE BEACHES OF *NEW JERSEY*--NEAR ATLANTIC CITY'S FAMED *STEEL PIER!*

I MANAGED TO GET A BAZOOKA BLAST AT THAT *NAZI SUB*, BUT IT WON'T BE LONG BEFORE THEY FIGURE OUT THE *TRUTH*...

...THAT I'M THE *ONLY* AMERICAN SOLDIER ON THIS BEACH!

ALONE AGAINST THE NAZI HORDE--AND *THIS* FIGHT FOR LIFE WILL SOON BE COMPLICATED BY...

BLACKOUT ON THE BOARDWALK

JACK C. HARRIS
WRITER
DICK AYERS
AND
ROMEO TANGHAL
ARTISTS
BEN ODA
LETTERER
JERRY SERPE
COLORIST
PAUL LEVITZ
EDITOR

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THE RECOIL OF THAT BAZOOKA WRECKED UP MY *ARM*--BUT I CAN'T LET THE PAIN STOP ME *NOW!*

VIP VIP VIP VIP

THE GERMANS SOMEHOW MANAGED TO *REPLACE* ALL THE *CIVILIAN SUBMARINE SPOTTERS* WITH PERFECT *DUPLICATES!*

ONCE THE PHONIES MANNED THESE LOOKOUT TOWERS--THE SUB WAS ABLE TO LAND *UNHAMPERED!*

AND *SOMEONE* IN THE GERMAN HIGH COMMAND WAS MAKING SURE *I* WAS HERE WHEN THIS LANDING TOOK PLACE!

THEY WANTED THE *LANDING*, MY ARRIVAL *SCHEDULED ATLANTIC CITY BLACKOUT* ALL TO TAKE PLACE AT THE SAME...

HUH!?

YAHHHH

BRATTTTAT

MY OLD FRIEND *RUPERT JOHNSON* WAS *KILLED* HERE TONIGHT WHEN THEY TRIED TO REPLACE *HIM!*

BUT HE *DID* HIS SPOTTER'S DUTY *BEFORE* HE DIED-- HE MANAGED TO GET A *MESSAGE* OFF TO U.S. ARMY HEADQUARTERS!

I JUST PRAY THAT *REINFORCEMENTS* ARRIVE *SOON!* I CAN'T HOPE TO *FOOL* THEM MUCH--UH-OH!

OHHHHHHWWHHHH

THE HORROR OF WAR JUST A FEW FEET BEHIND HIM, ULYSSES HAZARD *TURNS*... TO WITNESS *OTHER* HORRORS--!

OHHHHHHH! MY FACE! MY FACE!

GOOD *GLORY!* WHATEVER *SURGICAL PROCESS* THEY USED TO *ALTER* THE FACES OF THESE *PHONY SPOTTERS* SEEMS TO HAVE *FAILED!*

I--I PLEDGED MYSELF TO THE *THIRD REICH*--TO THE *FATHERLAND!* NOW LOOK WHAT THEY HAVE DONE TO ME!

BUT THE PITIFUL CRIES ARE *DROWNED* OUT AS...

BLAAMMM

GLORY! I JUST *MOVED* MY TAIL IN TIME!

LONG MINUTES OF *SILENCE PASS*... AND A BATTERED SOLDIER FINALLY *RISES*...

THEY'VE *DUG IN*... THEY STILL THINK THERE'S MORE THAN JUST *ME* OUT HERE...

BOARDWALK

THEY'RE SHOOTING AT ANYTHING THAT *MOVES*-- INCLUDING THEIR OWN *SPIES!* BUT I'VE GOT ME *ANOTHER* PROBLEM!

THE THREE GERMANS WHO KILLED *RUPERT* HAVE *PANICKED!* THEY'RE HEADED RIGHT FOR THE *STEEL PIER IN ATLANTIC CITY!*

US

AND *THEY'RE* THE ONES I'M GOING AFTER!

A NIGHT LIKE NO OTHER-- GERMAN FORCES INVADING THE EAST COAST OF THE UNITED STATES AS ONE LONE COMMANDO HOLDS THEM AT BAY...

BUT THAT COMMANDO KNOWS WHAT HE MUST DO NOW-- HE IS BOUND BY DUTY TO *STOP* THREE *DESPERATE* SOLDIERS...

...THREE SOLDIERS WHO ARE ABOUT TO INVADE THIS AMERICAN PLAYLAND -- *ATLANTIC CITY, NEW JERSEY!*

LET'S MOVE ALONG, FOLKS -- THE *BLACKOUT* IS SCHEDULED IN *FIVE MINUTES* AND EVERYONE IS SUPPOSED TO BE OFF THE BOARDWALK!

EH--!? WHAT'S HAPPENING?

WHERE ARE ALL THE *PEOPLE!?*

GET *READY*, RICK... IT'S ALMOST TIME!

I'M *ALL SET*, PETE! ONCE I PULL THIS *MASTER SWITCH*-- EVERY LIGHT ON THE BOARDWALK WILL GO --

ATLAN[illegible] POWER STATIO[illegible]

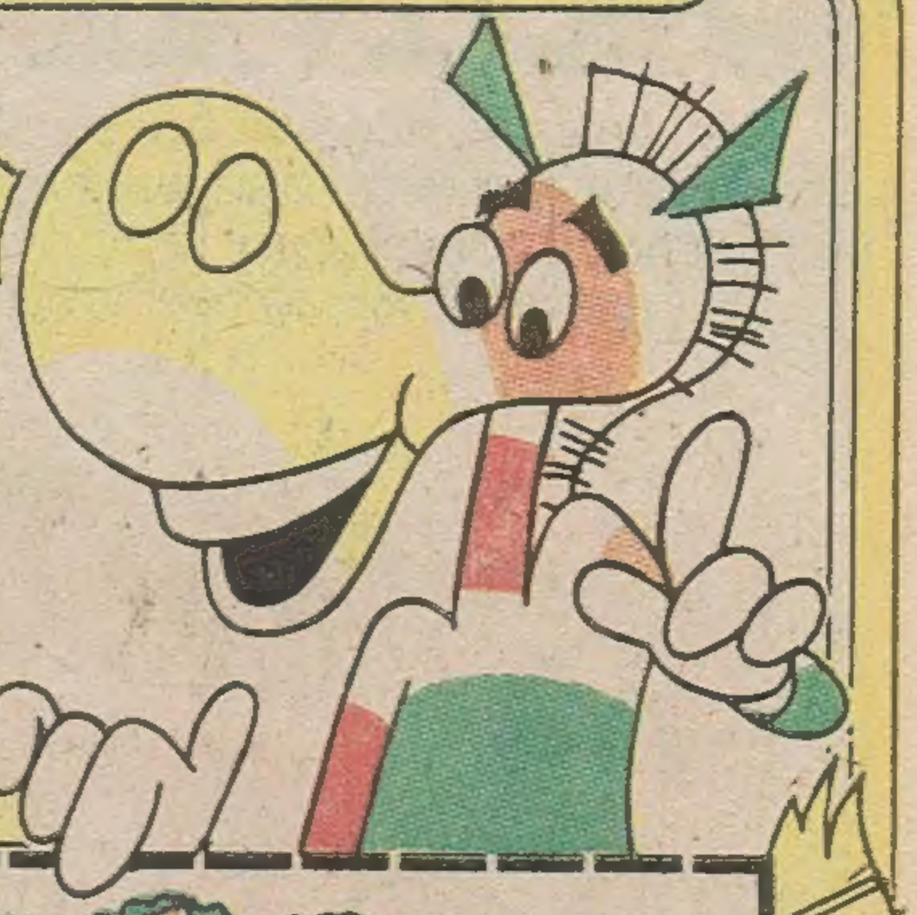
-BLACK!

NO! THE *BLACKOUT*-- I *FORGOT* ABOUT THE BLACKOUT!

CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING.

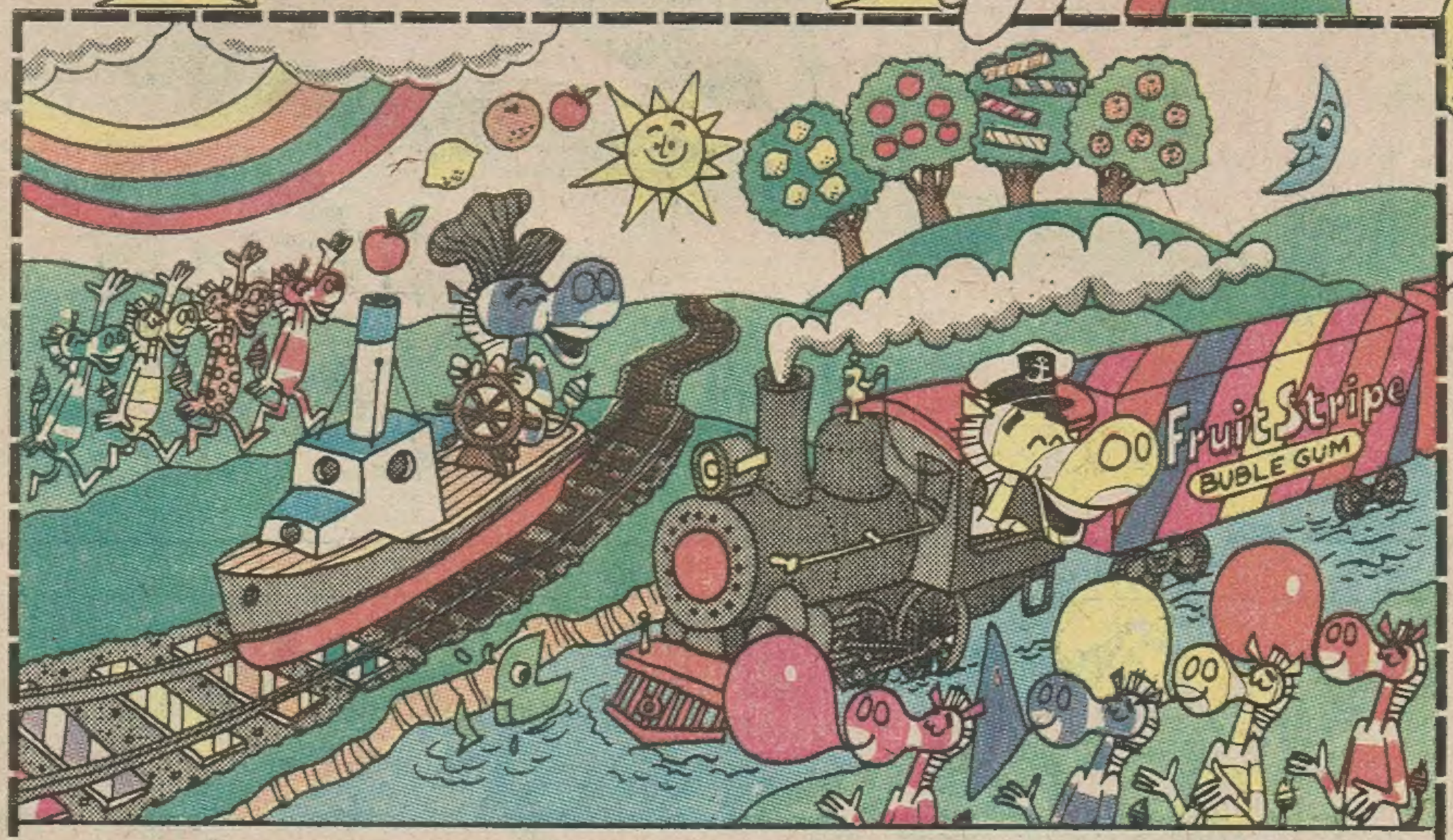
FRUIT STRIPE® GUM SWEEPSTAKES

Hey kids, win a trip to
Walt Disney World Vacation Kingdom
or one of
1,110 other prizes.



HERE'S HOW: Have as much fun in Fruit Stripe Land as you do chewing Fruit Stripe Gum. Just circle all of the mistakes and send the picture to us with 2 wrappers from Fruit Stripe Regular or Bubble Gum (or write the words "Fruit Stripe Gum means Fruit Stripe Fun" on a piece of paper).

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS PICTURE?



1. Correct answers not necessary for entry.
2. No purchase necessary. To enter, print your name, address and zip code on the official entry blank or on a plain 3X5 piece of paper. Each entry must include two (2) outside wrappers from either Fruit Stripe Gum or Fruit Stripe Bubble Gum or print the words "Fruit Stripe Gum means Fruit Stripe Fun" on a 3X5 piece of paper.
3. Enter as often as you like, but each entry must be mailed separately. Entries must be postmarked no later than Oct. 31, 1979, and received by Nov. 10, 1979.
4. Winners will be determined in a random drawing conducted by Ventura Associates, an independent judging organization whose decisions are final. All prizes will be awarded. Odds of winning are dependent upon the number of entries received.
5. No substitutes or exchanges for prizes offered. All federal, state and local laws apply. Void in Howard County, Maryland, and wherever prohibited or restricted by law. Liability for taxes is the sole responsibility of the prize winner.
6. Sweepstakes open to U.S. residents under 16 years of age on date of entry only. Not open to employees and their families of Life Savers, Inc., their affiliates, advertising and judging agencies.

Mail entries to:
Fruit Stripe Gum Sweepstakes
P.O. Box 7995
Westbury, New York 11592

Please Print

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

GRAND PRIZE: A trip for 4 to Walt Disney World Vacation Kingdom, including airfare and hotel for 5 days/4 nights.

SECOND PRIZE: **10 Ten Speed Bicycles.**

THIRD PRIZE: **100 Transistor Radios.**

FOURTH PRIZE: 1,000 Boxes* of Fruit Stripe Bubble Gum.

Regular and Bubble Gum

Fruit Stripe® Gum

means

Fruit Stripe Fun

*20 packs per box

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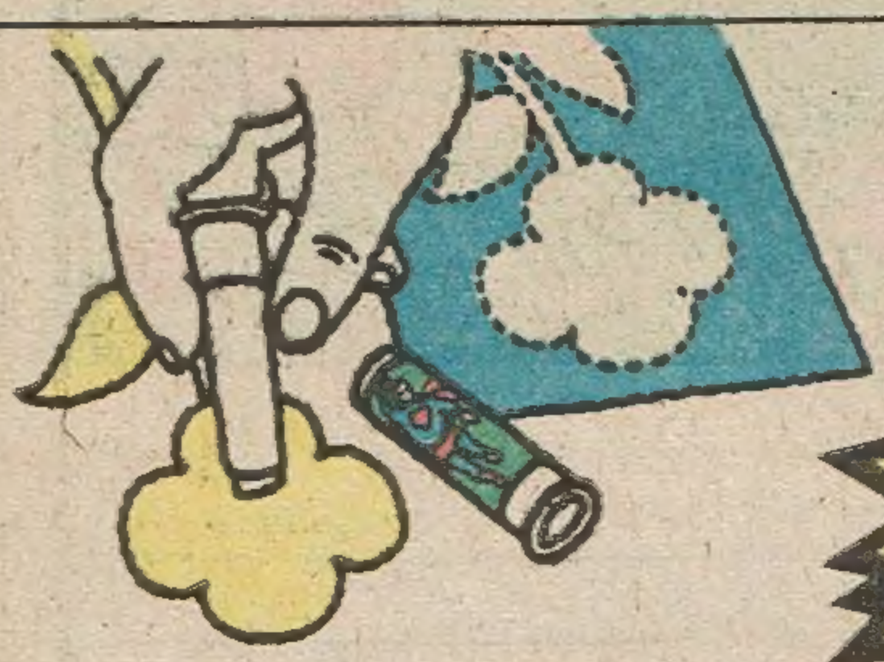
slim jim



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Dennison

ALTHOUGH HE IS NOT *TRAINED* FOR COMBAT, EDDIE PARKER TAKES HIS CIVIL DEFENSE JOB AS SERIOUSLY AS *ANY* HARDENED COMBATANT...

SURE IS *PEACEFUL*... THOSE JERRIES WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO SEE THIS PLACE *NOW*-- THAT'S FOR SURE!

I HOPE WHOEVER WAS SHOOTING OFF THOSE *FIREWORKS* DOWN ON THE BEACH EARLIER HAS *STOPPED*! THESE *BLACKOUT DRILLS* DON'T MEAN A DAMN THING UNLESS *EVERYONE* COOPERATES TO THE FULL--

HEY!

CD

GET DOWN!

KAPOW!

WHAT THE HELL--!

THERE'S A *SNIPER* ATOP THE FERRIS WHEEL! HE'S SCARED AND *DESPERATE*!

WHO--!?

JUST WHO THE DEVIL DO YOU THINK YOU *ARE*? I'M A *CIVIL DEFENSE OFFICER* AND--

PUT OUT THAT LIGHT! THERE'S ANOTHER GERMAN RIGHT ABOVE US!

GERMAN?

WITH LIGHTNING-FAST REFLEXES, GRAVEDIGGER SQUEEZES HIS TRIGGER, SENDING *FIERY DEATH* THROUGH THE WEATHERED PLANKS OF THE BOARDWALK!

ARRAHGH!

BRATRATRATRA

YOU -- YOU KILLED HIM!

AFRAID SO, BROTHER...

...AND FOR A GOOD REASON!

HE -- HE'S A NAZI!

IT'S A NIGHTMARE! WE'VE REALLY BEEN INVADED! I HAVE TO REPORT THIS -- ALERT EVERYONE!

YOU NUTS? YOU WANT TO START A PANIC?

THERE'RE U.S. TROOPS HEADED HERE RIGHT NOW -- SECURE THAT BODY WHILE I TAKE CARE OF THE OTHER TWO KRAUTS HERE ON THE BOARDWALK!

Y-YES, SIR, CAPTAIN!

I -- I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! GERMANS -- HERE! AND IT'S ONLY ONE CAPTAIN AGAINST HOWEVER MANY THERE ARE OUT THERE!

HOW CAN HE DO IT ALONE?

WITH A LITTLE LUCK, IN A FEW MINUTES HE WON'T HAVE TO...

--BUT MEANWHILE ON THE BOARDWALK...

BLACKOUT'S NOT HELPING ME MUCH-- THE *FULL MOON'S* GIVING THAT CLOWN ON THE FERRIS WHEEL ENOUGH LIGHT TO *SEE ME!*

KAPOW KAPOW KAPOW

SPRINGING LIKE A *CAT*, GRAVEDIGGER REACHES COVER...

THIS WILL KEEP ME SAFE-- BUT I CAN'T SEE A *FOOT* IN FRONT OF ME! I *HAVE* TO SEE IF I CAN FIND *ANOTHER EXIT*... WORK MY WAY AROUND...

I WOULDN'T RISK THIS *OUTSIDE*, BUT I'M OUT OF THAT GERMAN'S SIGHT NOW...

SKRITCH

GOOD GLORY! I'M SURROUNDED!

ONE CHANCE-- HIT THE DECK!

THE BLACKENED HIDING PLACE IS RIPPED BY GUNFIRE-- AND OTHER STRANGELY *FAMILIAR* SOUNDS...

BRATATATATAT-- KCRAEESSSHHHH

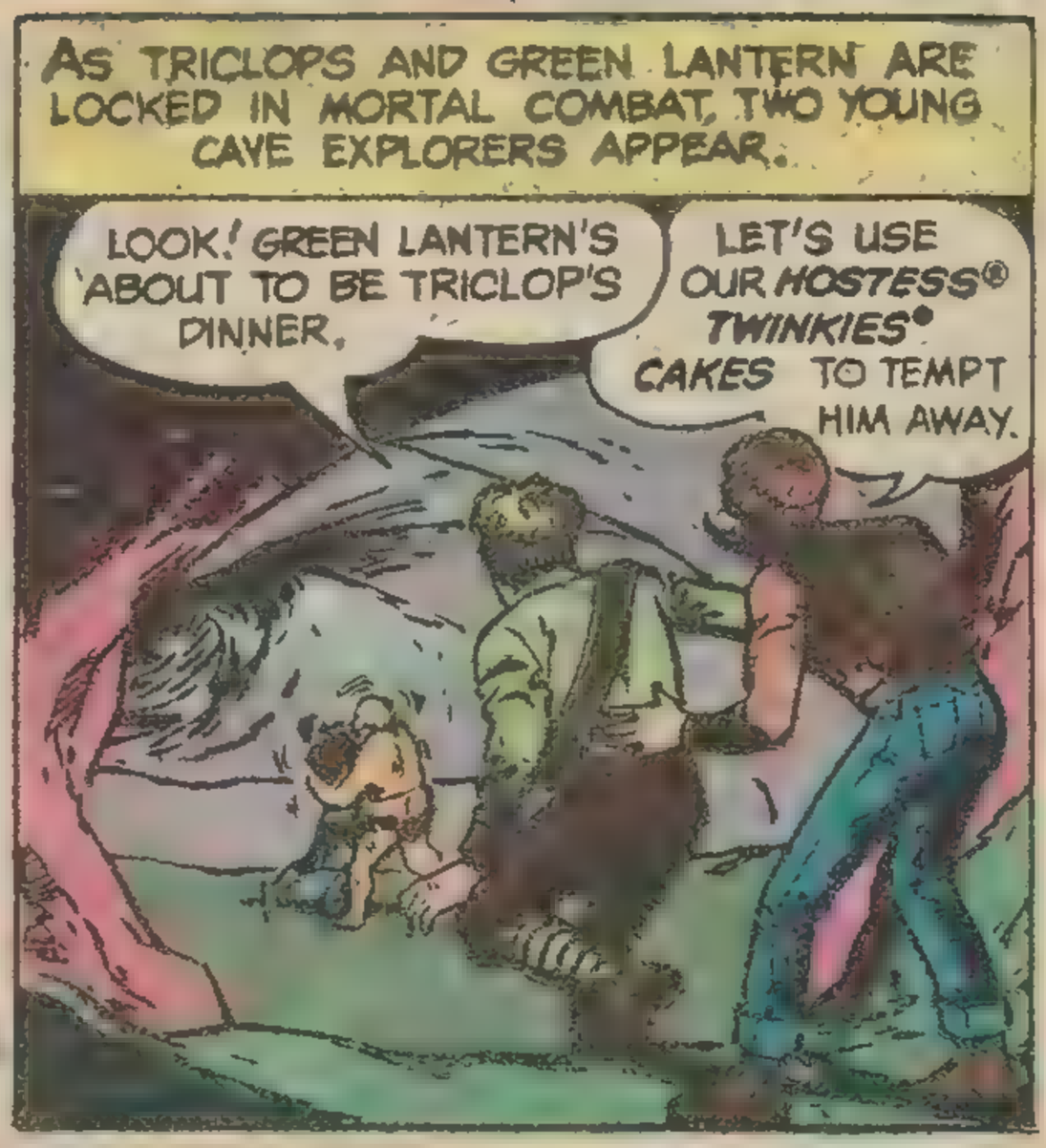
THEY--THEY *MISSED*? BUT HOW -- THERE MUST HAVE BEEN A *HUNDRED* OF THEM -- WAIT! THAT *SOUND*... LIKE *BREAKING GLASS*!

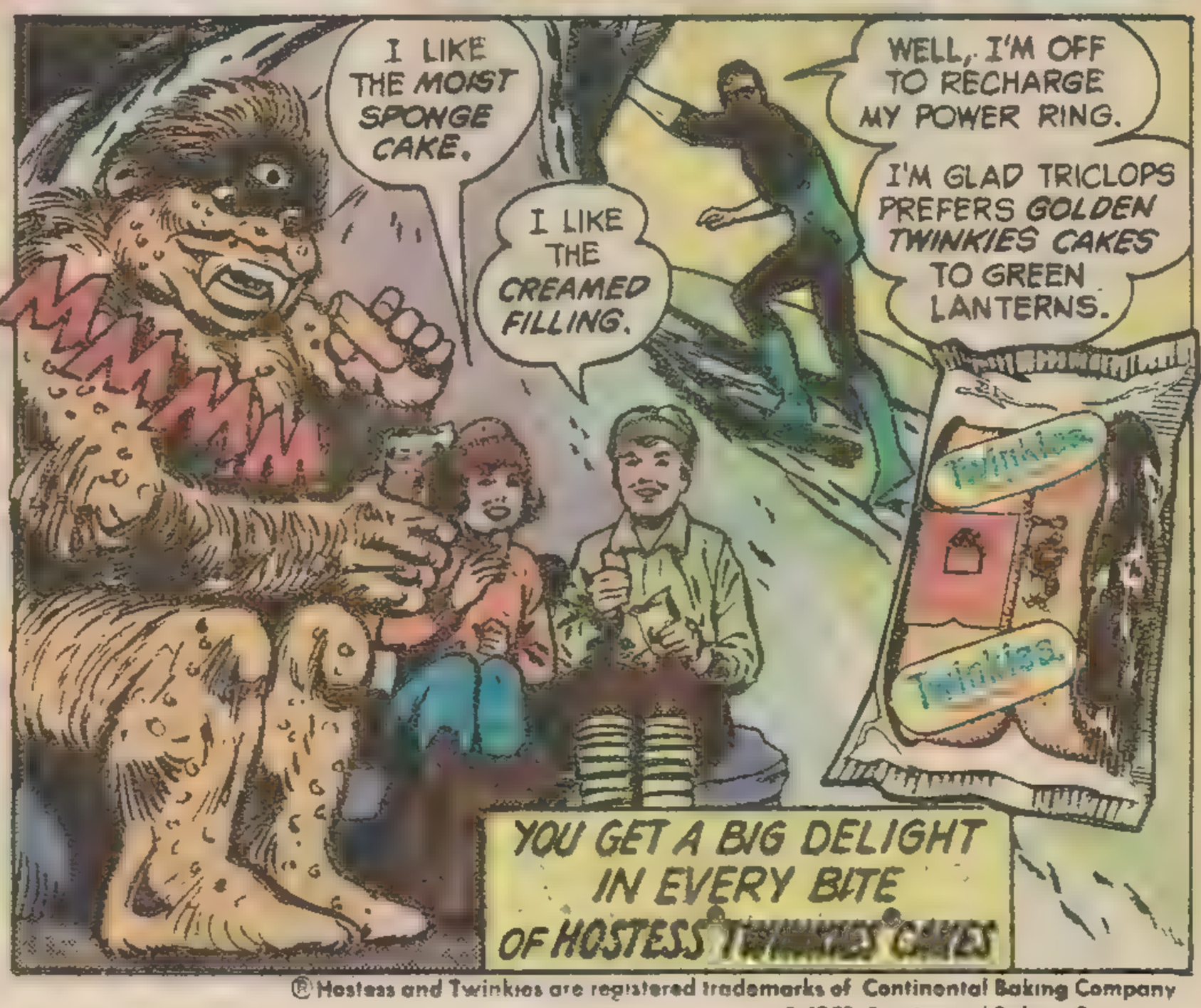
I HAVE TO *MOVE* BEFORE THE *GERMAN* GETS THE *SAME IDEA* -- WHIRL AROUND AND FIRE IN *ALL DIRECTIONS* IN A MATTER OF *SECONDS*!

TA-TA-TA-

ADVERTISEMENT

GREEN LANTERN VS TRICLOPS THREE-EYED KEEPER OF THE CAVE


AS TRICLOPS AND GREEN LANTERN ARE LOCKED IN MORTAL COMBAT, TWO YOUNG CAVE EXPLORERS APPEAR.
LOOK! GREEN LANTERN'S 'ABOUT TO BE TRICLOP'S DINNER.
LET'S USE OUR HOSTESS® TWINKIES® CAKES TO TEMPT HIM AWAY.


I LIKE THE MOIST SPONGE CAKE.
I LIKE THE CREAMED FILLING.
WELL, I'M OFF TO RECHARGE MY POWER RING.
I'M GLAD TRICLOPS PREFERS GOLDEN TWINKIES CAKES TO GREEN LANTERNS.
Twinkies
Twinkies
YOU GET A BIG DELIGHT IN EVERY BITE OF HOSTESS TWINKIES CAKES

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THE HOTTEST THING THIS SUMMER!
THE CHILLS OF WINTER WERE BROKEN BY THIS EVENT!
THE ANNUAL JLA-JSA TEAM-UP YOU ALL WAITED FOR! IT'S OUR GREATEST ADVENTURE!!
JUSTICE LEAGUE of AMERICA
THERE IS ONLY ONE MEMBER OF OUR GROUP WHO COULD HAVE TURNED TRAITOR AND BECOME A MURDERER-- YOU!
JUSTICE LEAGUE of AMERICA
JLA AND JSA JOINED IN A DESPERATE RACE AGAINST TIME TO TRAP A KILLER GONE MAD IN: "JUSTICE"
HOW IS YOUR LAST CHANCE TO GET IN ON THE ACTION!
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AFTER YEARS OF FANTASTIC TEAM-UPS BETWEEN THE *JUSTICE LEAGUE* AND THE GOLDEN AGE HEROES OF THE *JUSTICE SOCIETY*, THEY'RE FINALLY FACING A MENACE THEY CAN'T DEFEAT... AT LEAST, NOT WITHOUT ONE OF THE MEMBERS *DYING* IN THE PROCESS !!

On Sale NOW!!

THE STORM HAS MOVED IN FROM THE SEA... MAYBE IT'LL GIVE ME ENOUGH COVER TO MAKE IT TO THE FERRIS WHEEL!

HALL of MIRRO

KAPOW KAPOW

FERRIS

I'M PINNED DOWN! THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO! EVEN IF THE TROOPS ARRIVE *NOW*, THEY'LL BE TOO BUSY CLEARING THE BEACH TO EVEN *NOTICE* WHAT'S GOING ON DOWN HERE...

THERE'S ONLY *ONE THING* I CAN TRY--AND IT BETTER WORK, BECAUSE IT'LL LEAVE ME WITHOUT ANY *WEAPONS* EXCEPT MY *BARE HANDS!*

THOSE CONTROL LEVERS... THEY'LL *ACTIVATE* THE WHEEL...

BRATATATATATAT

PING

KLANG

COME ON -- *MOVE!* THE POUNDING FROM THESE BULLETS *HAS TO MOVE IT!* FOR *RUPERT!*

TATATATATAT

TZIP

ZIP

THE SALVO OF GUNFIRE PELTS THE THIN METAL LEVER...UNTIL...

IT WORKED!

BRATATATAT

ER-EEKK-

VIP

VIP

SUDDENLY, THE LIGHTS SPRING TO *LIFE*-- AND THE CREAKING METAL WHEEL BEGINS TO *MOVE* AS IF IT HAS A LIFE OF ITS OWN...

VAS?

HIS WEAPON GONE, THE LONE GERMAN SOLDIER IS *DEFENSELESS* AGAINST THE ONSLAUGHT OF-- *THE GRAVEDIGGER!*

LET'S GO FOR A *RIDE*, NAZI -- YOUR *LAST ONE!*

LOCKED IN DEADLY COMBAT, FOUR ARMS ENTWINE AROUND THE TWO ENEMIES... EACH TRYING TO DESTROY THE OTHER FOR REASONS TOO NUMEROUS TO MENTION...

GIVE... IT UP... YOU'RE *ALONE* NOW...

I WILL *DESTROY YOU*, GRAVEDIGGER--AT LEAST *THAT* PART OF MISSION WILL BE *SUCCESSFUL..!*

SO I *WAS* TRICKED INTO BEING HERE DURING YOUR RAID!

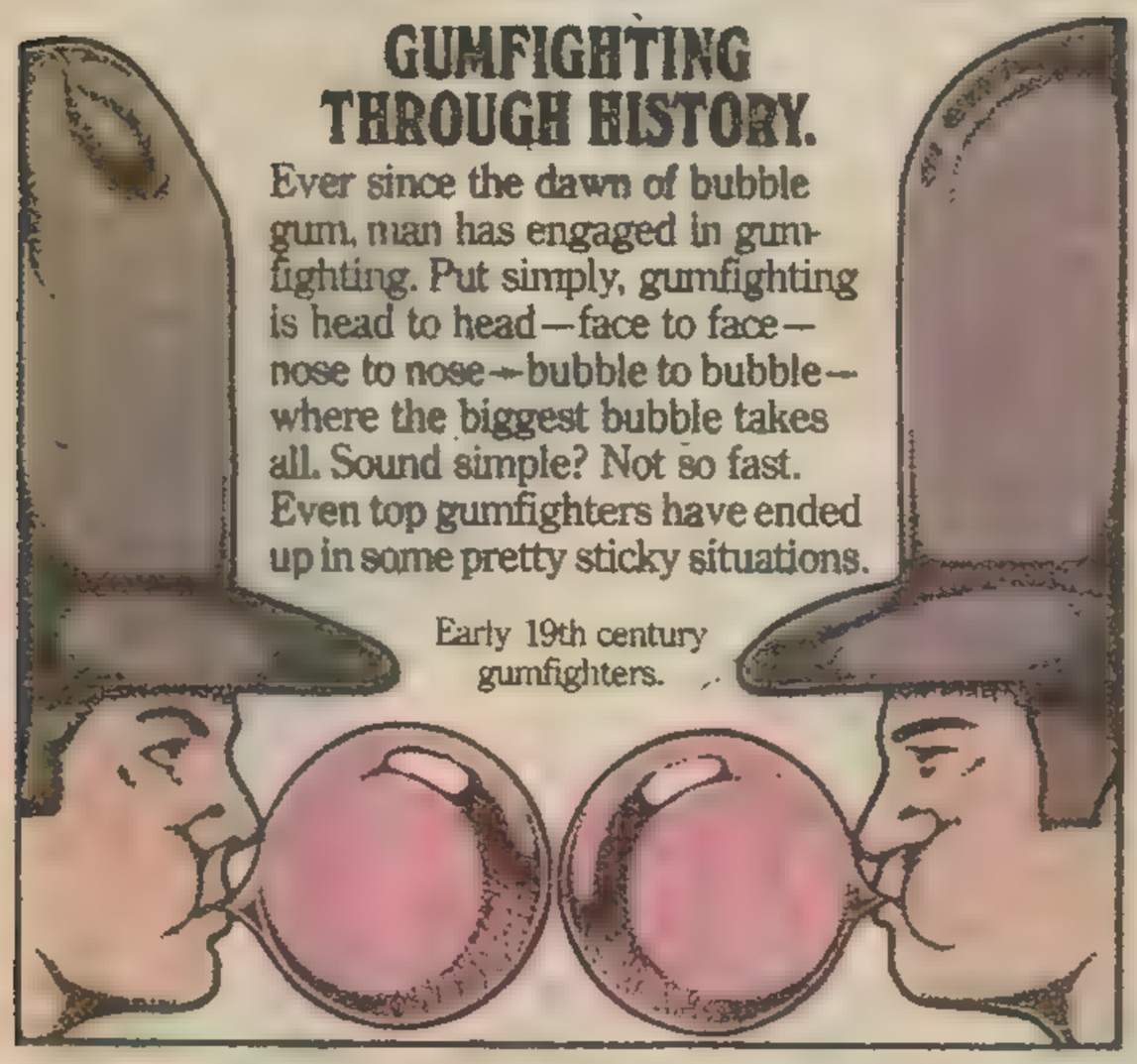
GOEBBELS SAID WE COULDN'T *HELP* BUT SUCCEED! HE *LIED!* HE-- NO! NO!

NOOO

GUMFIGHTING PRACTICE AND TECHNIQUES.

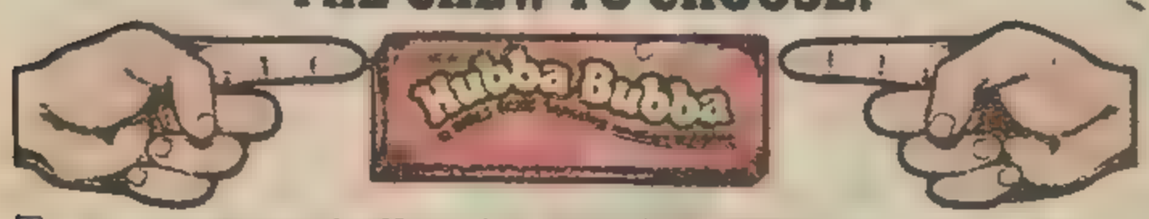
GUMFIGHTING THROUGH HISTORY.

Ever since the dawn of bubble gum, man has engaged in gumfighting. Put simply, gumfighting is head to head—face to face—nose to nose—bubble to bubble—where the biggest bubble takes all. Sound simple? Not so fast. Even top gumfighters have ended up in some pretty sticky situations.



Early 19th century gumfighters.

THE CHEW TO CHOOSE.



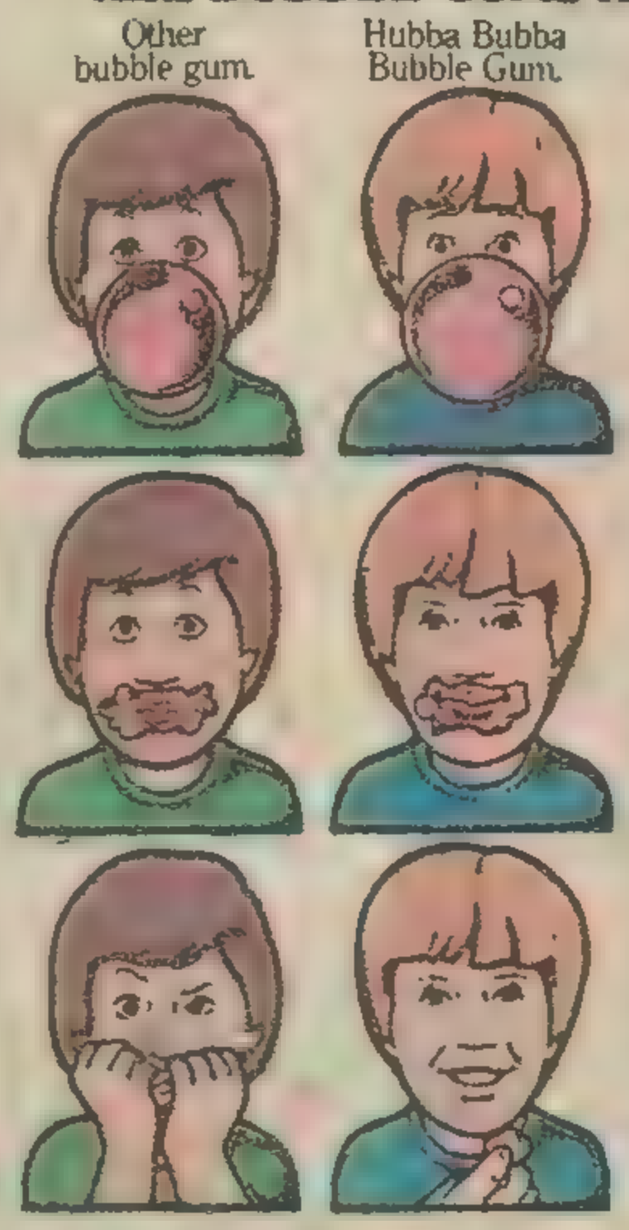
To get you started off on the right foot, we'd like to get you started off on the right bubble gum. New Hubba Bubba® Bubble Gum. Soft and juicy Hubba Bubba is the brand new bubble gum with amazing no-stick bubbles!™ That's right, *no-stick bubbles!* And no-stick bubbles mean you can blow bubbles as big as you want and not have to worry about them sticking to your face. Does Hubba Bubba *really* work? 98.8% of the faces tested said yes.

GUMFIGHT PRACTICE DRILL.

The secret to becoming a great gumfighter is practice, practice, and more practice. And the only gum to practice with is new Hubba Bubba. So pick up a pack and pop a soft, juicy chunk in your mouth. While you're enjoying that great long-lasting Hubba Bubba flavor, proceed with this simple yet effective gumfight drill:

©1979 Wm. Wrigley Jr. Company

ALL BUBBLE GUMS ARE NOT ALIKE.



The kid on the left is blowing bubbles with another gum. The kid on the right is blowing bubbles with new Hubba Bubba. Note the size of that Hubba Bubba bubble.

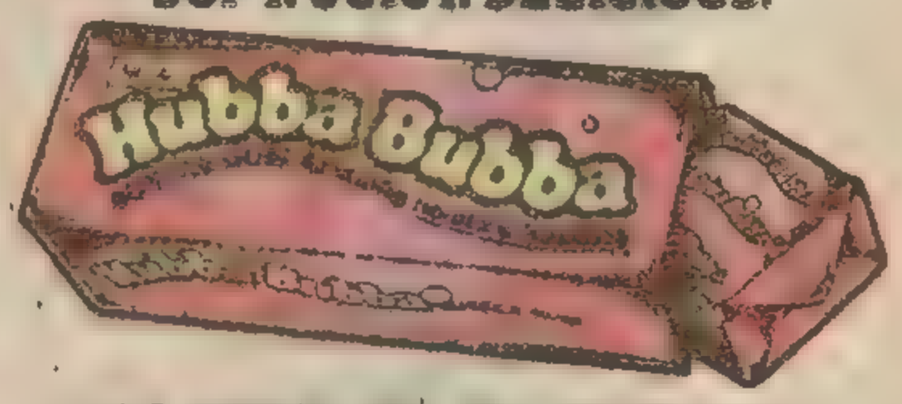
As you see, a sticky situation is developing on the left. But not on the right.

Notice the Hubba Bubba bubble comes right off the face and goes back in the mouth. As for the bubble gum on the left, those are the breaks.

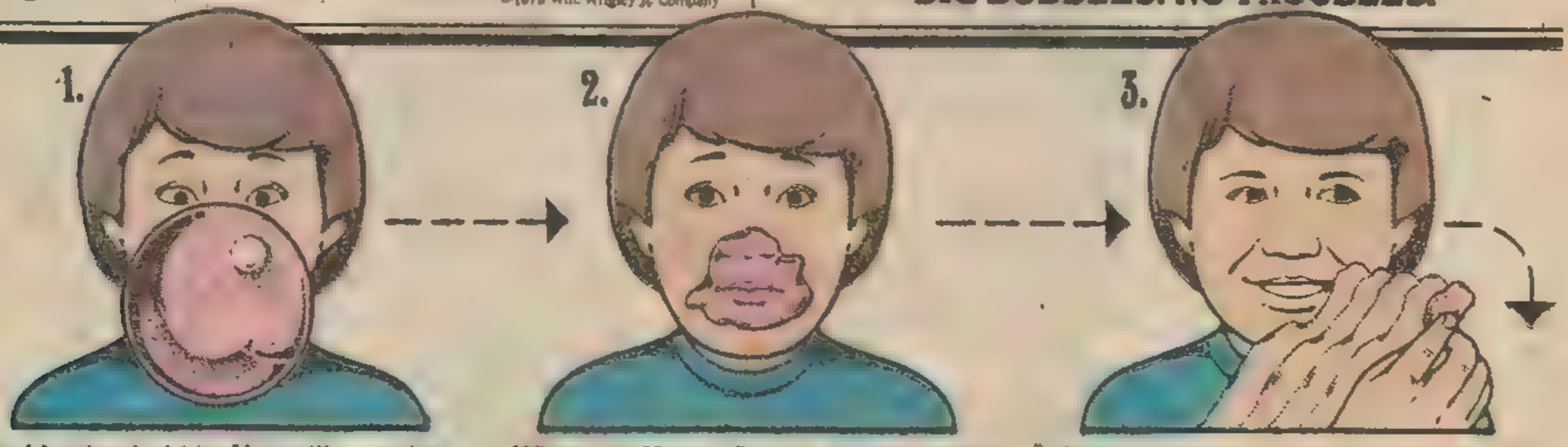
To be sure you're getting the genuine article (Hubba Bubba in original or mint flavors), study the picture below very carefully. Then repeat: Hubba Bubba—Hubba Bubba—Hubba Bubba—Hubba Bubba—Hubba Bubba—Hubba Bubba—Hubba Bubba.

Get some delicious new Hubba Bubba soon and see for yourself. Your bubble troubles are over.

SOFT. JUICY. DELICIOUS.



BIG BUBBLES. NO TROUBLES.



Begin blowing bubble. You will note that Hubba Bubba's amazing formula lets you blow an incredibly large bubble.

When the Hubba Bubba bubble breaks do *not* be alarmed. Hubba Bubba is not your ordinary bubble gum.

Simply remove Hubba Bubba from your face. That's right, simply remove and replace in mouth. Return to step 1.

After you have mastered this basic gumfighting technique, try it out on someone. Remember for a successful gumfight, be sure your opponent is *not* chewing Hubba Bubba Bubble Gum—the soft and juicy bubble gum with amazing no-stick bubbles.

I AM MADAME XANADU! AND I WELCOME YOU TO TAKE AN... UNEXPECTED JOURNEY THROUGH THE... DOORWAY TO NIGHTMARE™

WHERE YOU WILL MEET A WEREWOLF HUNTER AMID THE SIGHT AND SOUND OF "MOONLIGHT and LAUGHTER"!

NEW! 3 CHILLING COMICS IN 1

"HOUSE" ★ SECRETS.

DECEMBER 1978 ★ NO. 194 ★ $1.00

NIGHTMARE

GIVE YOU THE NERVE TO FACE THE

UNEXPECTED

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

HA HA HA! THE CURSE IS WORKING.. SHE'LL NEVER UPSTAGE ME AGAIN!

I'M ABEL OF THE HOUSE OF SECRETS. --ALSO IN THIS ISSUE... PRESENTING TALES THAT EVEN SCARE ME!

ON SALE AUGUST 23RD!

TERRIFYING TELEVISION
WHEN YOU WITN
THE CUR
OZZIE AND

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A Whole Galaxy of Fun!

COLOR YOUR OWN FREE* SPACE EXPLORER POSTER!

In ten bright colors...both fine and broad tip really color in space! Details are on every specially-marked **Draws-A-Lot Crayons** marker pouch.

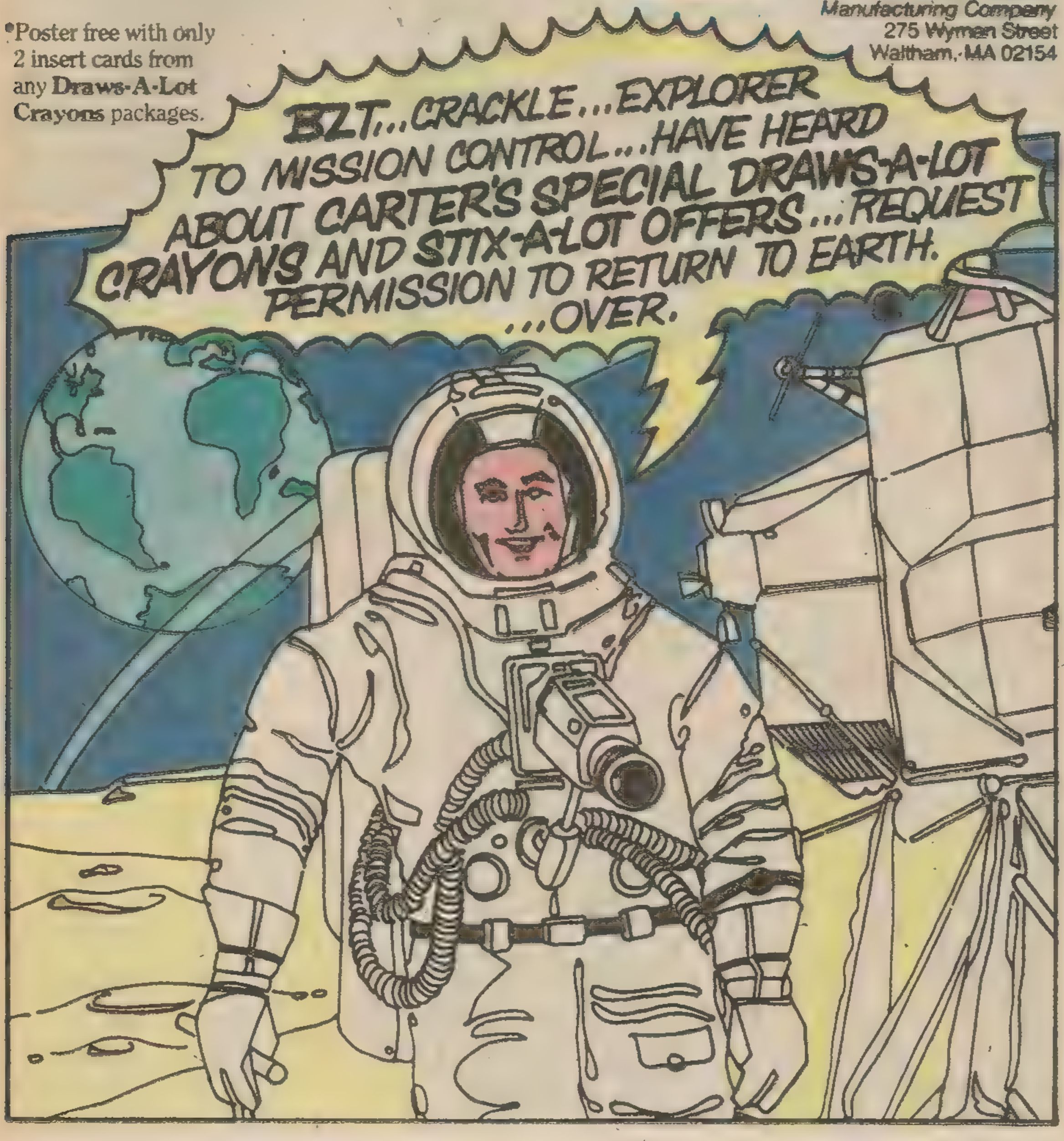
Get a free **Draws-A-Lot Crayon** when you purchase **Stix-A-Lot,** the space-age glue stick with no sticky mess. Look for the special package!

Actual poster size 17" x 22".

CARTER'S

The Carter's Ink Company
A Division of Dennison Manufacturing Company
275 Wyman Street
Waltham, MA 02154

*Poster free with only 2 insert cards from any **Draws-A-Lot Crayons** packages.


BZT...CRACKLE...EXPLORER TO MISSION CONTROL...HAVE HEARD ABOUT CARTER'S SPECIAL DRAWS-A-LOT CRAYONS AND STIX-A-LOT OFFERS...REQUEST PERMISSION TO RETURN TO EARTH. ...OVER.

BOMBSHELL BATTLE BULLETIN!
ON THE BATTLEFIELD, EVERY SECOND COUNTS!
WHOMP
WHOMP
INFORMATION HAS TO BE RUSHED FROM THE FRONT LINES TO COMMAND POSTS AT TOP SPEED!
AND COST IS NO OBJECT!
BUT NOW, THERE'S A BETTER WAY!
GET EVERY ISSUE OF YOUR FAVORITE WAR MAG DELIVERED RIGHT TO YOUR HEADQUARTERS!
EACH COPY MAILED FLAT IN A PROTECTIVE WRAPPER TO KEEP IT TOP SECRET!
AND BEST OF ALL-- GET 12 ISSUES FOR THE PRICE OF 10!
THAT'S RIGHT! NOW YOU CAN BE SURE YOU'RE GETTIN' EVERY ADVENTURE OF ME AND THE COMBAT-HAPPY JOES OF EASY COMPANY--
--AND OF MY MISSIONS BEHIND ENEMY LINES--
--AND MY ONE-MAN WAR AGAINST THE REICH--EVEN GET ALL THREE!
JUST USE THIS COUPON TO SUBSCRIBE NOW!

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- ☐ MEN OF WAR (Code #66)
- ☐ UNKNOWN SOLDIER (Code #63)

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FOR LONG MINUTES THERE IS *SILENCE*.. THEN WHISPERED WORDS ESCAPE THE LIPS OF ONE SOLDIER...

OKAY, RUPERT... THE GUYS WHO KILLED YOU ARE *GONE*... BUT THAT DOESN'T BRING *YOU* BACK, DOES IT?

AND A HALF A MILE DOWN THE BEACH...

KEEP FIRING! PUSH THEM BACK!

THEY SKEDADDLED *FAST*, MAJOR--! WERE THEY REALLY *GERMANS*?

I *THINK SO*, SERGEANT... BUT THEY SEEMED TO BE *EXPECTING* US!

THEY HAD ALREADY *BEGUN* THEIR RE-TREAT *BEFORE* WE ARRIVED!

MAJOR-- LOOK! HERE COMES *CIVIL DEFENSE*. MAYBE *HE* HAS SOME ANSWERS!

WHAT'S THIS?

THE ENEMY CASUALTIES OF... THE *BATTLE OF THE BOARDWALK*, MAJOR!

YOU HAVE A WHALE OF *EXPLAINING* TO DO-- AND WHO WAS THAT *CAPTAIN*?

HE SAID HE WAS A... *GRAVEDIGGER*, SIR... JUST A GRAVEDIGGER.

5¢ GOOD FOR ONE RIDE

NEXT: THE FRONT!

BATTLE LINES

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Dear Paul,

MEN OF WAR 17 was a great issue. But the only way I am going to be happy is if you make *MEN OF WAR* a $1. monthly with Gravedigger, Enemy Ace, Dateline:Frontline, Blackhawks, and a rotating feature.

First, the Joe Kubert cover was as fantastic as ever. But where did the alligators come from, they were not in the insides of the book? I just tack this up to artistic license on Joe's part.

Jack C. Harris is really doing a nice job on the book. "The River of Death" is an excellent choice of title for the Nile and also shows that you have been boning upon your ancient history as well as World War Two. The story moved quite nicely with the changes of scene and cast. I feel that the addition of the British threesome is a nice move. Who cares if they go swimming with their hats on (how they kept those things on their heads is beyond me)? After all that work and life and death action the plans are destroyed in the river. Nice piece of irony there, Jack.

The addition of a supporting cast is going to help this book out a lot as far as getting an issue to issue continuity. Colonel Birch is a nice touch, he is not like Churchill who gives all his problems to the Unknown Soldier to solve for him, but he treats the Gravedigger like another operative out in the field. That twosome back in Berlin strikes me as the war comic answer to supervillains with the mad scientist lab.

The artwork by Dick Ayers and Romeo Tanghal was fantastic to be sure.

Rosa in my opinion is too early to make judgments on as far as quality goes. The artwork by Jerry Grandenetti struck me as a bit of a Steve Dikto style effort.

Mark Ryan
10236 Monarch Dr.
St. Louis, Mo. 63136

Current plans don't call for any monthly Dollar Comics, Mark, and we wouldn't want to sacrifice six issues a year to make the transition—at least not at the present. You'll just have to settle for our twelve issues a year, and the two regular war Dollar Comics: G.I. COMBAT and ALL-OUT WAR.—PL.

• • • • •

Dear Paul,

Gravedigger is failing. Nothing interesting has happened in the strip since the origin story, and the current multi-parter with "defense packet 6" is particularly dull. I have not been pleased with the art since Arv Jones' departure; what amazes me about Dick Ayers is that on one book his art can be consistently excellent, while on another it can be consistently NG. I have no complaint with Dick's Unknown Soldier or Scalphunter, but every character in Gravedigger and Jonah Hex is a stiff, hulk-like creature.

Issue after issue, the only thing that makes *MEN OF WAR* worthwhile is the back-up. In #17 you introduce Rosa. Although the strip so far seems to be nothing more than an anachronistic Unknown Soldier (what with the disguise-taking) with a protagonist who for some reason mixed-metaphorically uses phrases from about five different languages (if this is done to "imply" anationality, it's corny), the Grandenetti art is very nice. The logo for the strip, on the other hand, was embarrassingly bad.

Unless the Gravedigger strip perks up to meet the standards set by this book's other features, the obvious way to correct MOW's quality back-heaviness is to retire the current lead.

Brian Hayes
Address Not Given

Your opinion of Gravedigger isn't shared by all our readers, Brian, though we admit that many fans do consider our "back-ups" to be the only ones in recent comics history to give the leads a mark to measure up to. But we'll leave our defense to the next packet of letters...—PL

• • • • •

Dear Editor,

You made the right decision in the character portrayal of Rosa, the Master Spy. Keep him incognito, his actions spontaneous and bold, and any reference to his past life to remain unclear. No, that's all we need to know. No need to worry about creating a shallow character; this series should be strictly adventure.

The man has an international stature about him. He'd fit nicely in any European setting. I'm looking forward to this series.

Harris' Gravedigger script was much better than the previous issue's installment. Hazard's heroics were showy, but believable. You had me believing (last issue) that Hazard had failed. I should have known that Defense Packet 6 couldn't have slipped through his fingers.

The Nazi mini-sub was a clever idea.

I'm hoping the British trio do not depart now that their mission is over. They did prove that Hazard would make a good regiment commander. He's in such control of situations that his abilities demand respect from those around him. That's a great leadership quality. How about a story in which Hazard does get the chance to command?

Alan Gary Giroux
7609 W. Weldon
Phoenix, AZ 85033

Good thought, Alan—we'll pass it on to JCH and see what he comes up with.—PL.

• • • • •

NEXT MONTH: Ulysses Hazard heads to Europe on a mission that takes him back to his military beginnings—as a Gravedigger! The Nazis are exchanging the corpse of an American general for one of their own, and Allied High Command wants to know why. Be here, for that exciting story and the concluding installment of Dateline:Frontline's Russian series.—Paul Levitz.

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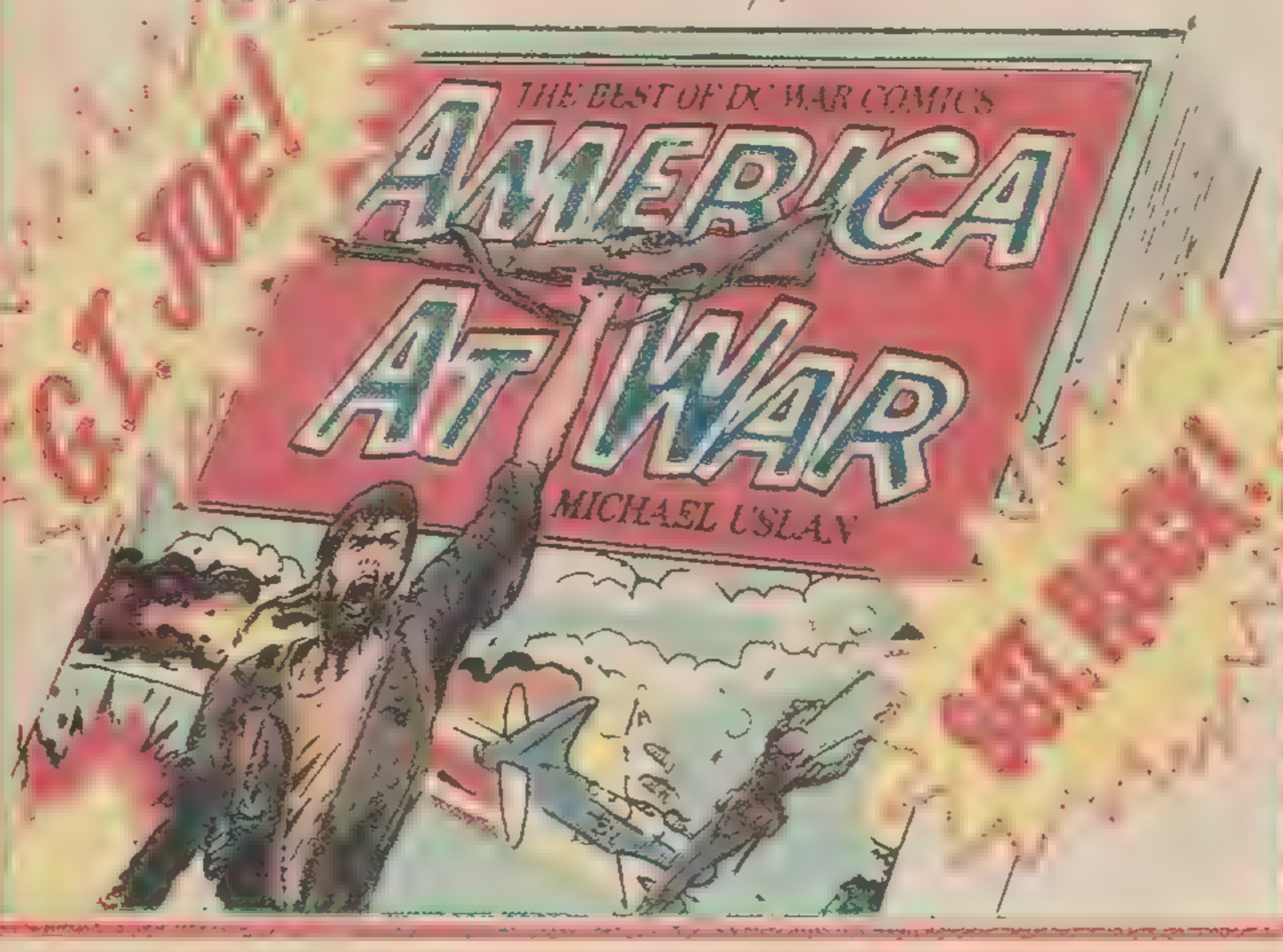

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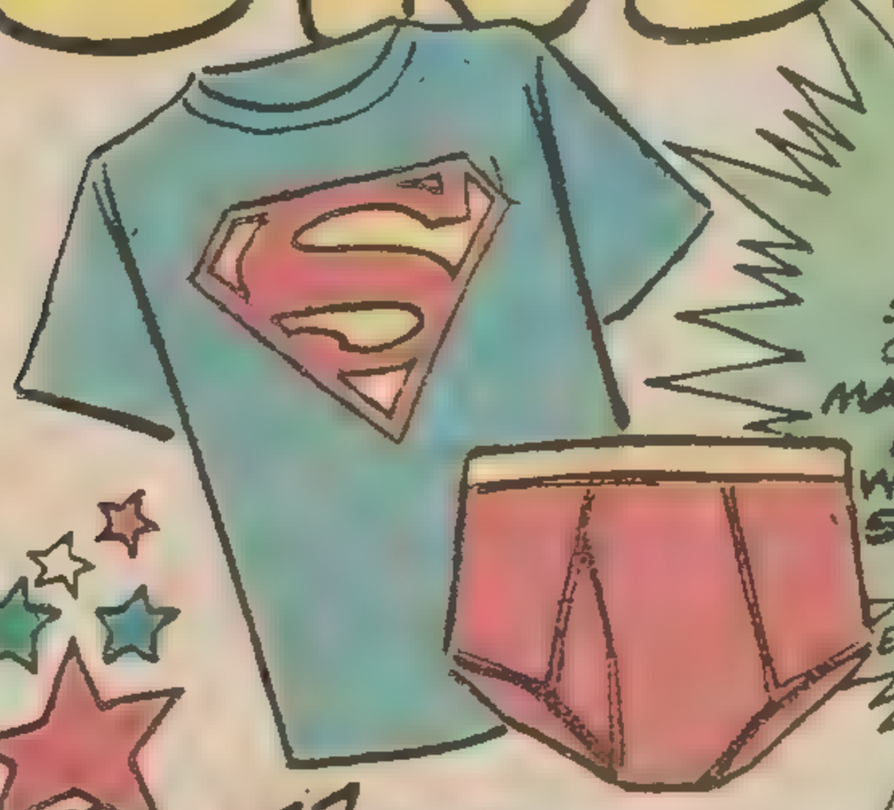

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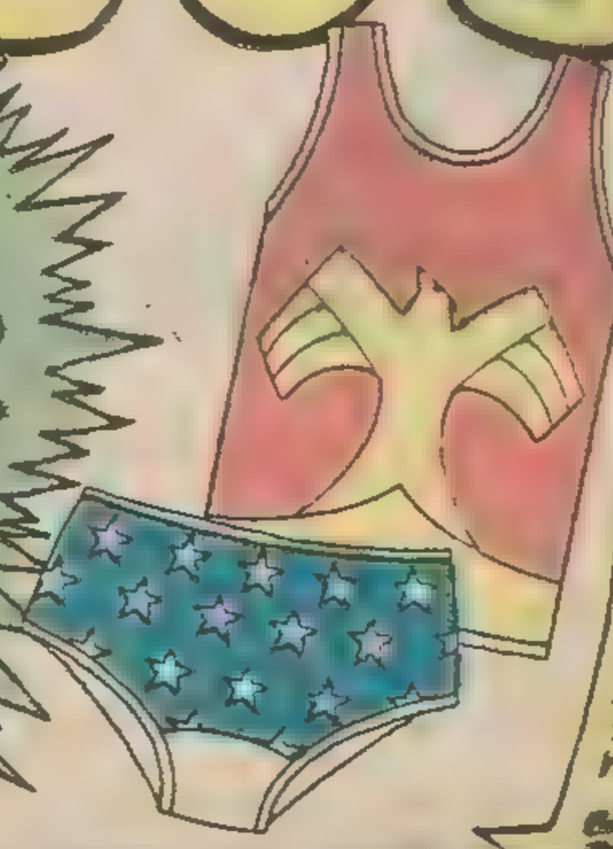

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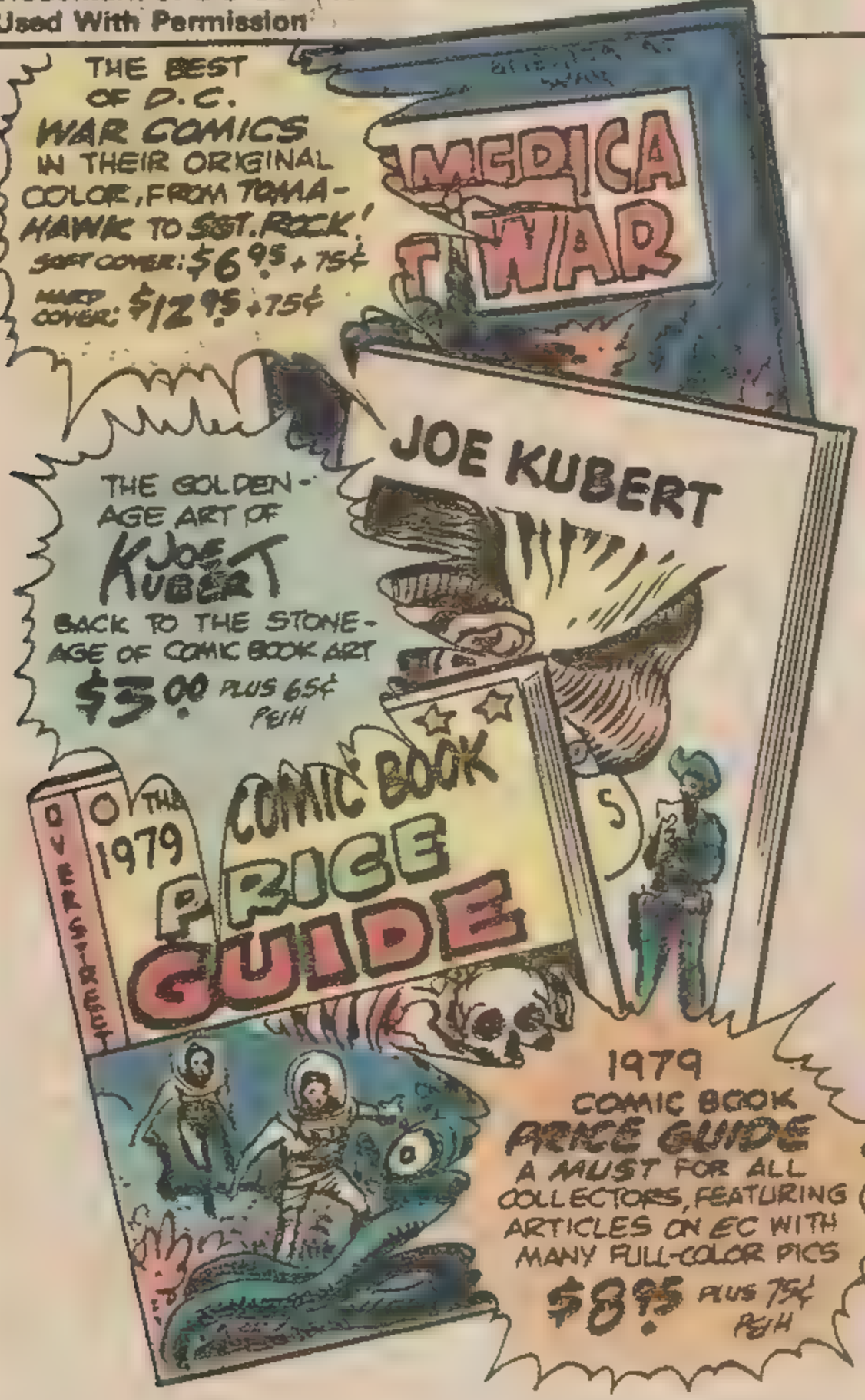

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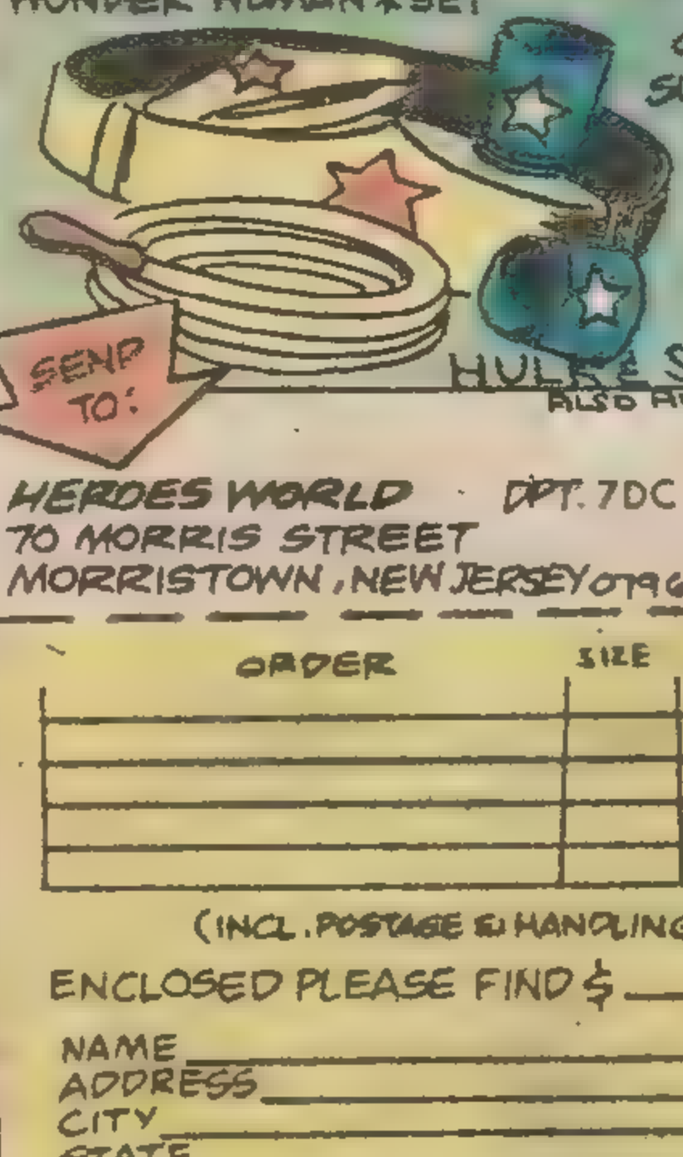

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Nov. 7th, 1941: The grand and ancient city of Moscow was being shaken to its very roots by the approaching German Blitzkrieg. Already some of the outlying districts had been evacuated. But I remained, hoping to attach the Wayne Clifford byline to a...

DATELINE: FRONTLINE

TAKE IT, WILLIS. THE POT'S YOURS!

THREE JACKS! BEAT THAT IF YOU CAN, DUNCAN!

AS WE SAT FREEZING IN THE *SOVIET INFORMATION BUREAU* WAITING ROOM, I COULD TELL THAT THE *OTHER* CORRESPONDENTS WERE ALL WONDERING THE *SAME THING* THAT I WAS... WOULD RUSSIA *SURVIVE* ANOTHER GRUELING MONTH IN THIS WAR?

SCORCHED EARTH, CRIMSON SNOW

WRITER: *CARY BURKETT* ★ ARTIST: *JERRY GRANDENETTI* ★ COLORS: *SERPE* ★ LETTERS: *KLEIN* ★ EDITOR: *PAUL LEVITZ*

THE RUSSIANS WERE TIGHT-MOUTHED ABOUT WHAT WAS HAPPENING. EVERY DAY A SPOKESMAN READ US THE *OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUÉ* FROM WHICH WE WERE TO WRITE OUR REPORTS... AND EVERY DAY, IT WAS THE SAME STORY.

ATTENTION CORRESPONDENTS! YOU MAY REPORT THAT THE SOVIET FORCES HAVE *PUSHED BACK* THE GERMAN OFFENSIVE AGAINST *MOSCOW!*

WE ARE EXPECTING NEWS OF THEIR *RETREAT* ANY DAY NOW!

HUH! IF THE SOVIETS PUSHED BACK THE GERMAN OFFENSIVE AS OFTEN AS THEY *CLAIM*, THEY'D BE IN *BERLIN* BY NOW!

C'MON, WAYNE! YOU DON'T EXPECT THE RUSSIANS TO LET US IN ON THE *WHOLE STORY*, DO YOU? THEY THINK ALL REPORTERS ARE *SPIES*, ANYWAY!

CHEER UP! YOU AND I ARE GOING TO BE SEEING SOME OF THE ACTION FOR OURSELVES BEFORE LONG!

HUH?!? WHAT DO YOU MEAN, GREG? YOU KNOW THEY DON'T ALLOW REPORTERS ON THE FRONT LINE!

GREG SHEPHERD WAS ONE OF THE FEW OTHER AMERICAN REPORTERS COVERING THE STRUGGLE FOR RUSSIA. WE HAD STRUCK UP A FAST FRIENDSHIP...

YOU FORGET, WAYNE OLD BOY...I'VE BEEN OUT HERE MUCH LONGER THAN YOU HAVE--I'VE MADE A FEW CONNECTIONS IN THE SOVIET HIERARCHY!

WITH A LITTLE PERSUASION, I'VE GOTTEN PERMISSION FOR TWO AMERICAN REPORTERS TO ACCOMPANY THE RED ARMY ON A PATROL! SO GET YOUR GEAR PACKED, BUDDY!

GREG WAS AS GOOD AS HIS WORD. WHATEVER STRINGS HE PULLED TO GET US THE OPPORTUNITY, WITHIN TWO DAYS WE WERE TRUDGING THROUGH THE SNOW ALONGSIDE SOVIET INFANTRYMEN...

GREG...I DON'T UNDERSTAND... WHY IS IT THAT ONLY THE SOLDIERS IN THE FRONT ARE FULLY ARMED? THE ONES IN THE BACK HAVE LITTLE MORE THAN SIDEARMS!

LACK OF SUPPLIES, WAYNE! IT'S THE BIGGEST PROBLEM THE SOVIETS HAVE!

WHEN THE SOLDIERS IN FRONT ARE CUT DOWN, THE ONES BEHIND PICK UP THEIR ARMS AND CONTINUE... LOOK OUT!

THAT FARMHOUSE... MUST BE A GROUP OF GERMANS HIDING THERE!

KA-POW! POW! POW!

IT WAS ONLY A SMALL GROUP OF NAZIS CUT OFF FROM THEIR MAIN BODY. THE SOVIET SQUAD SOON HAD THEM SURROUNDED...

THE GERMANS ARE SURRENDERING, WAYNE!

THE CAPTURED GERMANS WERE HERDED QUICKLY OUT INTO THE SNOW...

C'MON, WAYNE...I DON'T THINK YOU'LL WANT TO *WATCH* THIS.

BUT *WHY?* WHAT ARE THEY GOING TO DO...SEND A DETACHMENT BACK TO *MOSCOW* WITH THE PRISONERS?

THE RED ARMY CAN'T *AFFORD* TO TAKE *PRISONERS*...THEY DON'T HAVE ENOUGH FOOD TO FEED THEIR *OWN* MEN!

DON'T JUDGE THEM TOO *HARSHLY*, WAYNE... THEIR VERY *SURVIVAL* IS AT STAKE...AND THE NAZIS HAVE DONE MUCH *WORSE* TO THE RUSSIAN PEOPLE!

KPOW! KPOW! KPOW!

I WANTED TO LOOK AWAY, BUT SOMETHING GRIPPED ME INSIDE, FORCED ME TO *STARE* IN FASCINATED HORROR...

SHOULDN'T WE BE *MOVING ON?* IF THERE ARE ANY *MORE* NAZIS AROUND, THE *GUNFIRE* WILL BRING THEM RIGHT DOWN ON *TOP* OF US!

YOU'RE *RIGHT*... BUT THE SOVIETS CAN'T PASS UP A CHANCE TO IMPROVE THEIR *EQUIPMENT SUPPLY!*

JUST THEN, THE FROZEN AIR *EXPLODED* IN A CRACKLE OF HOT LEAD, AS A LARGER GROUP OF GERMAN SOLDIERS, PROBABLY PART OF THE SAME ARMY GROUP AS THE FIRST PATROL, BURST UPON THE GRISLY SCENE...

POW! BRAKK! KPOW! POW!

WE'VE GOT TO FIND *COVER! QUICK!* HEAD FOR--*AGGHH! MY ARM!*

GREG!!!

HANG ON, BUDDY! I'LL PULL YOU OUT OF THE LINE OF *FIRE*--INTO THE *FARMHOUSE!*

NO! NO! NOT *THERE!* THAT'S THE *FIRST* PLACE THEY'LL ATTACK!

POW!

POW!

HERE--I CAN MOVE! ONLY MY ARM WAS HIT!

THAT SNOWBANK ...IF WE CAN GET BEHIND IT, THEY MIGHT NOT SEE US!

BAM!

KPOW!

SOMEHOW WE STRUGGLED UNDERNEATH A ROCKY OUT-CROPPING, AND DUG OUR WAY THROUGH THE SNOW UNTIL WE WERE HIDDEN FROM SIGHT.

BKOW! KPOW! BAM BAM BAM!

GREG WAS IN A GREAT DEAL OF PAIN, BUT I MANAGED TO STAUNCH HIS WOUND WITH A BANDAGE TORN FROM THE LINING OF MY COAT.

WE LAY SHIVERING IN OUR HIDING PLACE FOR HOURS. GREG PASSED OUT, AND I FEARED HE WAS DYING. BUT EVEN WHEN THE FIRING STOPPED, I WAS HESITANT TO MOVE, UNTIL...

WE'VE BEEN SPOTTED! BUT IS IT A NAZI, OR...?

IT WAS A WOMAN... A RUSSIAN PEASANT WOMAN WHOSE FACE BORE THE MARKS OF A LIFE FILLED WITH CRUEL BURDENS AND HARDSHIP.

TO ME, THOUGH, IT WAS THE FACE OF AN ANGEL OF MERCY.

I DON'T KNOW WHO WON THE SKIRMISH BETWEEN THE NAZIS AND THE SOVIETS... BUT THE VICTOR HAD NOT STAYED LONG.

THE RUSSIAN WOMAN SAID NOTHING, BUT HELPED ME PULL GREG TO HIS FEET, AND BEGAN GUIDING US ALONG TO--WHERE? I DIDN'T KNOW OR CARE.

WE STRUGGLED ALONG FOR SEVERAL MILES, AND WITH EACH STEP I THOUGHT I COULD GO NO FARTHER. BUT FINALLY...

WAYNE...? THAT MUST BE HER HOME! SHE'S GOING TO TAKE US IN!

CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING.

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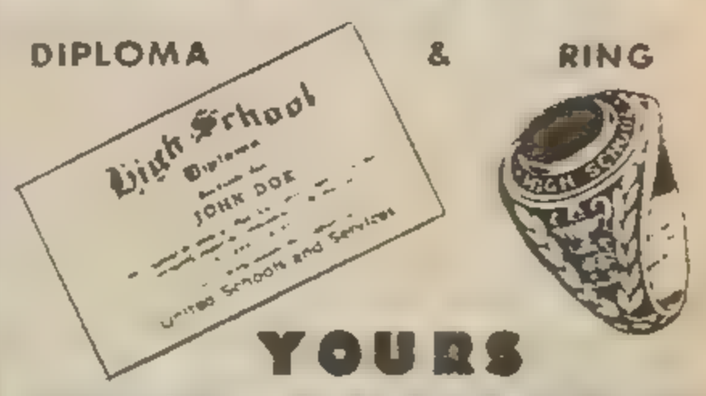

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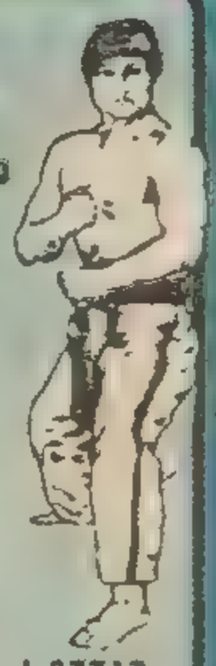

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THE WOMAN'S NAME, WE LATER LEARNED, WAS *ANYA*. DESPITE HER HUMBLE SURROUNDINGS, SHE TREATED GREG'S WOUND QUITE CAPABLY.

HER HUSBAND AND OLDEST SONS WERE SERVING WITH THE RED ARMY. ONLY HER TWO *YOUNGEST CHILDREN* REMAINED, CLUSTERING ROUND HER SKIRTS LIKE SHY YOUNG ANIMALS.

FOR *TWO WEEKS* WE STAYED WITH THEM AS GREG RECOVERED. DURING THE *DAY* I HELPED OUT WITH THE FARM CHORES...

AH, IF THEY COULD ONLY SEE YOU BACK IN THE STATES *NOW*, WAYNE OLD BOY! WHAT A *SIGHT!*

SAVE YOUR *BREATH*, YOU GRINNING BABOON! YOU'LL *NEED* IT WHEN YOU GET *OUT* OF HERE!

AT *NIGHT*, GREG EXERCISED HIS MEAGER RUSSIAN IN AN ATTEMPT TO *CONVERSE* WITH ANYA, THOUGH SHE SELDOM SAID MUCH...

HAVE YOU TOLD HER WHO WE ARE ...WHAT WE *DO?*

I DON'T THINK SHE'D *UNDERSTAND.*

SHE TOLD ME HER *GREAT-GRANDFATHER* BUILT THIS HOUSE. SHE WAS *BORN* HERE... AND ALL HER *CHILDREN* WERE BORN HERE.

I DOUBT IF SHE KNOWS WHAT A *NEWSPAPER* IS, MUCH LESS A *REPORTER!*

ON A RARE OCCASION, THE OLDER CHILD WOULD TAKE DOWN THE HOMEMADE *BALALAIKA*, AND SHYLY *SING* SOME RUSSIAN FOLK TUNES.

THOUGH I COULDN'T UNDERSTAND THE *WORDS*, THE MELODIES WERE HAUNTING, HARKING BACK TO A GREAT *HERITAGE* FROM THE COLD, FIERCE COUNTRY THAT GAVE THEM BIRTH.

BY THE THIRD WEEK, GREG WAS STRONG ENOUGH TO LEAVE, AND WE HAD MADE PLANS TO *LINK UP* WITH A SOVIET PATROL THAT ANYA HAD TOLD US WAS *NEARBY*...

THE *LEAST* I CAN DO IS LEAVE HER A GOOD SUPPLY OF *WOOD* BEFORE WE GO.

WE HAD ALMOST *FORGOTTEN* ABOUT THE NAZI ARMY IN THE AREA-- BUT THEY HAD NOT FORGOTTEN *US!*

KRAK!

WHA--!?

FOR SEVERAL LONG MINUTES ANYA *STARED WORDLESSLY* AT THE CORPSE OF THE GERMAN SHE HAD SLAIN...

THEN, AS IF MAKING A *DIFFICULT DECISION*, SHE SLOWLY TURNED AND BEGAN WALKING AWAY.

AND WITHIN AN HOUR...

GREG--WHAT'S SHE *DOING?* SHE'S PACKING UP LIKE *SHE* WAS LEAVING TOO!

THE GERMANS HAVE ADVANCED TOO *CLOSE*, WAYNE. SHE'S GOT TO LEAVE! BUT BEFORE SHE DOES, SHE'LL *DESTROY* HER HOME AND ANYTHING *ELSE* THAT THE GERMANS MIGHT FIND USEFUL!

IT'S THE "*SCORCHED EARTH*" POLICY THE RUSSIANS HAVE... LEAVE NOTHING BEHIND THAT THE *ENEMY* MIGHT USE. SURELY YOU'VE *HEARD* OF IT.

Y-YES... BUT TO BURN UP HER OWN *HOME--!*

SHE WAVED US OFF... PREFERRING FOR HER OWN REASONS TO *PART COMPANY* WITH US. I COULD ONLY WATCH *HELPLESSLY* AS SHE TRUDGED AWAY, NEVER *ONCE* LOOKING BACK.

I THOUGHT OF HER *HUSBAND*--HER *SONS*... WOULD THEY EVER *FIND* HER AGAIN IF THEY RETURNED?

I WOULD NEVER KNOW... FOR I KNEW THAT I WOULD NEVER SEE HER AGAIN.

GOD SPEED, DEAR ANYA... WHEREVER YOU ARE.

EXTRA DAILY PLANET™ EXTRA

VOLUME 79 ISSUE 32 WEEK OF AUGUST 6, 1979 BOB ROZAKIS: EDITOR ANTHONY TOLLIN: PRODUCTION

JSA VANISHES?

DEADMAN, AQUAMAN, FLASH ALSO STAR IN LATEST ADVENTURE!

(DC, New York)—Can you believe the government investigating the *Justice Society*? It happens in the latest issue of *ADVENTURE COMICS*, in the story you never thought you'd read!

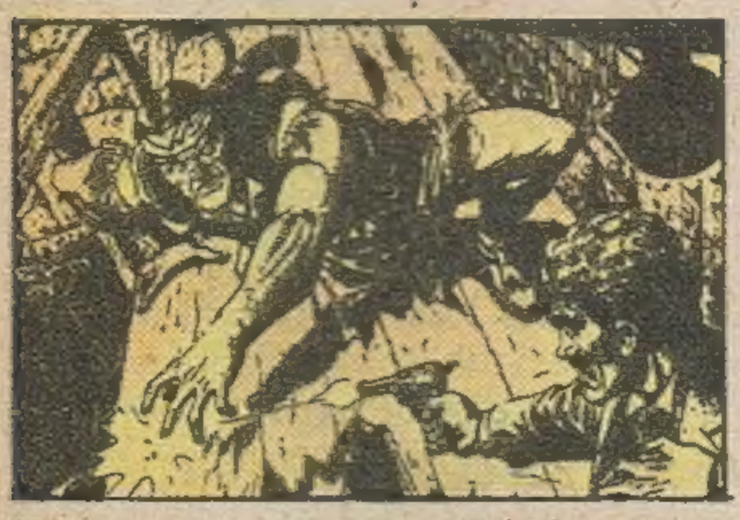
Paul Levitz and Joe Staton take you behind the scenes to discover the reasons why the *JSA* vanished so abruptly and so mysteriously in the 1950s. How could one man gain the power to destroy one of the most powerful crime-fighting organizations of all time? All the answers are revealed in "The Man Who Defeated The Justice Society." Don't miss it!

Also in this issue of *ADVENTURE*, *Deadman* prevents a suicide only to discover the tragedy of an old man's life that drove him to such an extreme. "Never Say Die" is by Len Wein and Jose Luis Garcia Lopez.

Then *Aquaman* encounters a bizarre seahorse while dealing with a group of renegade Nazis in the Antarctic. Bob Rozakis, Don Newton and Dan Adkins present "Death On Ice!"

Finally, The *Weather Wizard* reforms—or does he? If *The Flash* doesn't discover the answer in time, it could mean death in "Cloud With The Lethal Lining" by Cary Bates, Don Heck and Joe Giella.

Be sure to get your copy of *ADVENTURE COMICS* #466 when it goes on sale the week of August 20th.



SCALPHUNTER FACES DEATH IN OLD NEW YORK!

(New York, the 1860s)—*Scalphunter*'s desperate search for Maggie Maldrone through the seedy sections of this crowded city leads him to join up with a gang of Irish vigilantes seeking vengeance against the dread Camorra.

Together, their search leads them to an ancient gutted church for a blood-soaked final battle in "The Chapel of Death!"

Gerry Conway, Dick Ayers and Romeo Tanghal present the conclusion of Ke-Woh-No-Tey's New York adventure in *WEIRD WESTERN TALES* #61, on sale the week of August 20th. Don't miss it!

ASK THE ANSWER MAN

Q: Whose enemy is *Chronos*?—Ricky Danforth. *A*: The Time Thief fought his first few battles against *The Atom*.

Q: Any further word on plans for another DC/Marvel team-up?—Robert Urquhart. *A*: Yes, a contract has been signed for one a year over the next four years. The first will be a new *Superman/Spider-Man* team-up by Marv Wolfman and John Buscema. Plans call for *Wonder Woman* and the *Incredible Hulk* to join forces in 1980.

Q: Why can't *Superman* see through lead with his x-ray vision?—Kevin Young. *A*: Because x-rays don't penetrate lead.

Q: Do Billy and Mary Batson have to say *Shazam* at the same time to change into *Captain Marvel* and *Mary Marvel*?—Dearick Smith. *A*: No, they can say the word separately and still be transformed.

Q: Was *TEEN TITANS* #58 the last issue?—Robbie Wren. *A*: If you've got #'s 54-58, we'd like to see them. #53 was the last one we published!

Q: What would happen if *Green Lantern* charged his ring more than once in a 24-hour period?—Steve Haynie. *A*: Nothing dangerous—it would remain charged for 24 hours from the time of the second charging.

Q; Besides Diana Prince, were any other Earth-2 super-heroes in the military during World War II?—Patrick B. Miano. *A*: Clark Kent served briefly, but we can't think of any others.

Q: Which *Superman* appeared in *JLA* #108?—Patrick Burger. *A*: The Earth-2 Man of Steel.

DIRECT CURRENTS

ON SALE WEEK OF AUGUST 20th

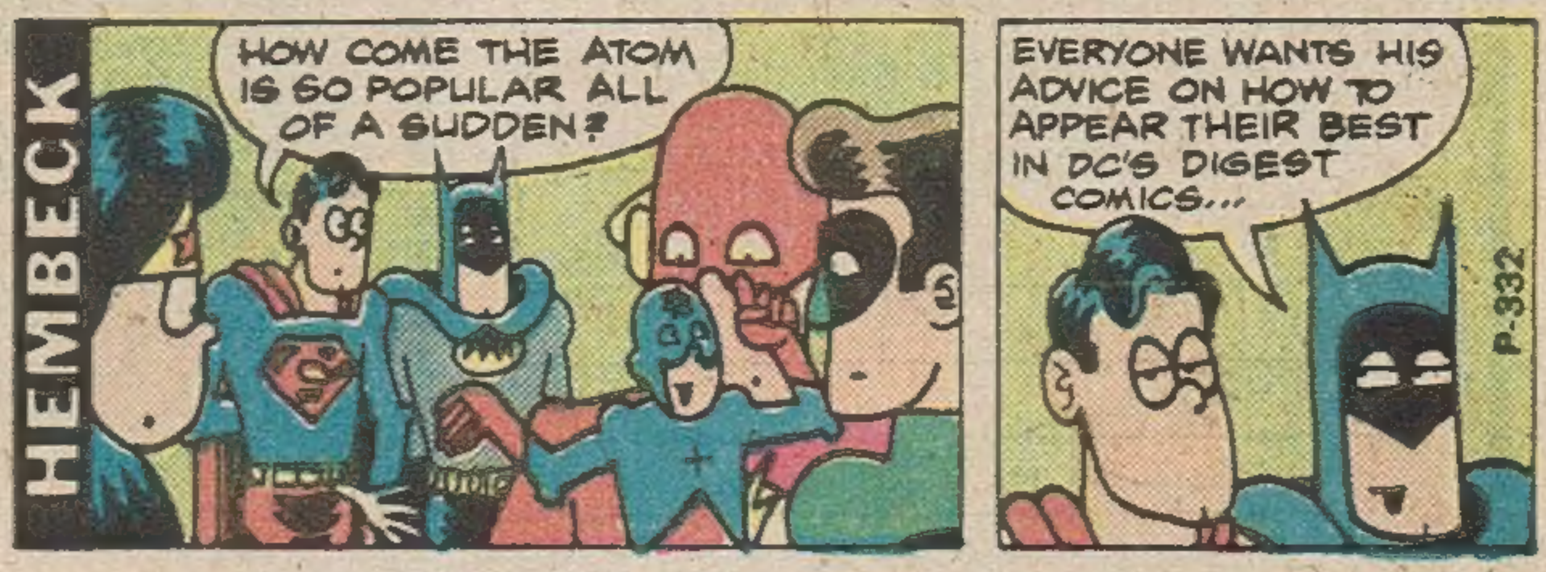
HOUSE OF MYSTERY #274—J.M. DeMatteis and Marshall Rogers take you for a tour of "Hell Park" while T. Casey Brennan, Jerry Bingham and Bill Wray resurrect "The Soul of Faustus".

GREEN LANTERN #122—Hal Jordan is getting married...or is he? Get a front row seat in "With These Rings..." by Denny O'Neil, Don Heck, and Romeo Tanghal.

SGT. ROCK #334—The men of Easy Company must answer "What's Holdin' Up the War?" by Robert Kanigher and Frank Redondo. Plus: "Hill" by Bill Kelley and Rick Veitch and "Lucky Eleventh" by Kanigher and Veitch.

SUPERBOY & THE LEGION #257—Gerry Conway, Joe Staton and Dave Hunt ask "Who Stole the Legion?" Then, Steve Ditko and Dan Adkins join Conway on "Once a Legionnaire..."

AND ON SALE RIGHT NOW: JONAH HEX DIGEST #2 / BEST OF DC DIGEST (BATMAN) #2 / MEN OF WAR #22 / DC PRESENTS #15 / BATMAN #317 / THE FLASH #279 / JONAH HEX #30 / JUSTICE LEAGUE #172 / WEIRD WAR #81 / GHOSTS #82 / SECRETS OF HAUNTED HOUSE #18 / SUPERMAN #341 / WONDER WOMAN #261 / SUPERMAN FAMILY #198 / ALL-OUT WAR #2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